



Jeffrey Orrin Aberbach

November 29, 1953 - June 30, 2014

Jeff was born November 29, 1953 and left us at the young age of 60 on June 27, 2014. Although his life was short he accomplished a great deal.

As an undergraduate student at California State University Northridge he secured a prestigious Congressional internship in Washington D.C. and served with Senator Lloyd Benson of Texas where he was given much recognition for his quick mind and learning ability. This experience provided Jeff the myriad tools necessary for his upcoming career.

He graduated with a degree in Journalism and the rest is dynamic history. His journalist career had him spend time throughout California on various newspaper staffs. The establishments included The Seal Beach News, Oxnard Press Courier, and the Marin Independent Journal. His longest stay was at the Davis Enterprise from 1979 to 1999. There he was responsible for county government, agriculture and his last stint as news editor. After leaving the Enterprise Jeff served on the editorial staff of The Contra Costa Times. Jeff recognized early that the newspaper business was in decline so he prepared himself for change. He applied for and was granted a writing position with the State of California. His most recent work had him serve as the Lead Publications Editor at Cal Recycle, the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery which is located in Sacramento.

Jeff had interests outside journalism and he pursued them with the same enthusiasm as his writing. His volunteer work included working as an instructor and Area Coordinator for AARP . The classes included teaching

safe driving to seniors throughout several counties in northern California. Jeff also volunteered for BERT, the Benecia Emergency Response Team. His work was to promote a basic emergency training class and to utilize his expertise in garnering media coverage for training activities.

Jeff served longest and with the most passion as a volunteer docent at the historical California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento. Jeff's passion was trains. This love had him particularly enjoying the many roles he assumed for The Polar Express, a Christmas time children's special train for children of all ages that was based on the classic book written by Chris Van Allsburg.

Jeff is survived by his two sisters Sharon (Roy) Michaels of Monterey and Kathy (Jim) Courtney of Northridge.

Jeff particularly was fond of his family and his special fondness was reserved for his nieces and nephews, Gina Michaels –husband Damon Campbell of Pacific Grove & Lindsey Courtney of Northridge, Aaron Michaels (Kate) of Mountain View. He also took special interest in the lives of great niece Sasha 6 & nephew Eli 9 and Ryan Michaels 19 months.

Jeff was preceded in death by his parents, Erich Aberbach 1974 and Anita Aberbach 2007.

A celebration of Jeff's life will be held at the California State Railroad Museum Roundhouse in Sacramento on Saturday, September 13, 2014. Invitations will be forthcoming.

Donations to the California State Railroad Museum , 125 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Feel free to provide your memories of Jeff on the Passalacqua web page so that his memory continues to live. www.passalacquafuneralchapel.com

Tribute Wall



“ Jeffrey Orrin Aberbach

November 29, 2022 at 08:20 PM



“ *I worked with Jeff for several years at the Davis Enterprise. Years later we worked in the CalEPA building and we always enjoyed coffee or lunch. In addition to his professional skills, which were top notch, Jeff was a deeply caring man with a heart of gold and a wicked sense of humor. I am saddened at his passing.*

Liz Kanter - October 14, 2014 at 03:40 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Jeff's passing. I worked with him at CalRecycle for five years--the first year in the same department where I quickly came to trust and depend on his excellent editing and proofing skills and to appreciate his sense of humor and easy charm. From his desk here at CalRecycle, Jeff could see the Railroad Museum, the Amtrak station, and many trains in motion--a view he, if anyone, could truly appreciate. I will miss him.*


Charlene Graham - July 10, 2014 at 05:59 PM

MT

“ Dear Aberbach family: I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. Jeff was my news editor for 10 years and remained a friend for 13 more. I was always happy to see him, these days around the Cal EPA headquarters building. He shared his intellect, kindness and humor everyday. A good friend and mentor, I will miss you, Jeff Aberbach.



Melanie Turner - July 10, 2014 at 05:58 PM

 Amy Norris

“ I'll miss you Jeff." It was an honor to work with him at CalRecycle. He was an amazing editor and sweet person.

Amy Norris

Amy Norris - July 10, 2014 at 04:37 PM

SM

“ He had a cracker jack wit, very smart, down to earth, you got a sense he cared for the underdog, a good guy.

Steve Michaels - July 08, 2014 at 08:28 PM

CC

“ I worked with Jeff at the Contra Costa Times, when he was editing wire stories. It was always a pleasure. I am thinking of his family and friends at this sad time.

Cindi Christie - July 07, 2014 at 12:34 PM

RM

“ *Jeff was a good friend and loving brother-in-law. He always thought of the children in the family as well as the pets; especially Clover and Corona We often shared jokes and had good laughs. I miss him a great deal. Jeff did only good things in life.*

Roy Michaels - July 06, 2014 at 01:01 PM